

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for programming recording of broadcast programs, comprising:

a recording device for recording onto a predetermined medium broadcast programs included in input signals;

a recording programming device for setting the recording start time and the recording end time of a given broadcast program, ~~in the broadcast programs~~, to program the given broadcast program as a first recording-scheduled program;

a program information acquisition device for acquiring electronic program-guide information;

an extension keyword search device for searching the electronic program-guide information that relates to ~~a given program as a secondly recording-scheduled one or more broadcast programs~~, which are to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the ~~first-given broadcast program~~, for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a program extension or delay; and

a delay device for delaying the recording end time of the ~~first-given broadcast program~~ in response to detection, as a result of the search by the extension keyword search device, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found.

2. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising an extension time period setting device for setting an extension time period for obtaining a recording end time to be delayed by the delay device.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein, in response to the detection of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, the extension keyword device adds to the recording end time, which is set for the given broadcast of the recording-scheduled program, a value obtained by multiplying by a predetermined extension time period the number of broadcast programs in which an extension keyword has been found.

4. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword is a phrase having at least a predetermined number of consecutive characters.

5. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword is a combination of two or more predetermined non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of characters.

6. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the second broadcast program is searched for a predetermined non-extension keyword indicating no extension/delay of the second broadcast program, and the broadcast program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

7. (Previously Presented) A recording programming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the extension keyword device performs a search on the electronic program-guide that relates to the second broadcast program, for a genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and in response to detecting a genre which does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then the extension keyword search device excludes a broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found from the search for the extension keyword.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method of setting the recording start time and the end time, and programming of recording a given broadcast program, ~~in the broadcast programs,~~ comprising:

utilizing a processor to perform the following:

acquire electronic program guide information;

search electronic program guide information that relates to ~~a second~~ one or more broadcast programs, which are to be broadcast on the same channel and the same date as and prior to the ~~first-given broadcast~~ program to be programmed, for a predetermined extension keyword indicating a broadcast program extension or delay; and

delay a previously-set recording end time of the ~~first-given~~ broadcast program in response to detection, as a result of search in the step of searching for the extension keyword, of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found.

9. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, further comprising utilizing the processor to set an extension time period.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein, in response to the detection of a broadcast program in which the extension keyword has been found, the recording end time is delayed by:

computing a total extension time period obtained by multiplying by the predetermined extension time period the number of the broadcast programs in which the extension keyword has been found, and

delaying the ~~first-given~~ broadcast program's previously-set recording end time ~~is-by~~ the total extension time period.

11. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the extension keyword includes a phrase having at least a predetermined number of consecutive alphabetic characters.

12. (Previously Presented) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the extension keyword is a combination of two or more non-consecutive phrases, and the spacing between phrases forming the combination falls within a predetermined number of alphabetic characters.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the ~~second-one or more~~ broadcast programs is searched for the predetermined non-extension keyword indicating that the second broadcast program is not extended or ~~[[/]]~~delayed, and a program in which the non-extension keyword has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.

14. (Currently Amended) A recording programming method as recited in claim 8, wherein the electronic program guide information that relates to the ~~second~~one or more broadcast programs is found for the genre to which the second broadcast program belongs, and in response to detection of a genre which does not coincide with one of predetermined genres, then a broadcast program in which the detected genre has been found is excluded from the search for the extension keyword.